

Black History Month is a time set aside to honor the resilience of black individuals and events that occurred throughout the African diaspora. This annual commemoration is celebrated during the month of February in the US. In 1926, Carter Woodson, together with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, declared the second week of February to be “Negro History Week.” This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of distinguished figures such as Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. From that time on it became a yearly observation for the black community to relive and ensure their voice as part of the broader society.

The creation of this tour was a collaborative effort by our MTHS Black Student Union (BSU) and members of our MTHS Equity Team. The purpose being to educate one another, strengthen bonds, and positively encourage the already existing as well as newly developing relationships between our student and staff community.

We hope that this tour through black history will further our efforts to cultivate a culturally inclusive school climate.

A special thank you to MTHS teachers and staff who offered use of their bulletin boards and supplies to create this special piece of MTHS black history.

Sincerely,

Latisha Williams  
Tribecca Brazil  
Grace Kavanah

A short walk through black history....

Begin in MTHS History Wing,

1. Dory Weber's room:

**Black History: From African Kingdoms to the Transatlantic Slave Trade.**

- In 1860, a ship named the Clotilda brought 110 Africans to US shores in Mobile, Alabama. By this time Congress had already enacted several laws limiting the international slave trade. The first of these anti-slave trade laws was enacted as early as 1794, with another in 1807, however, the domestic slave trade within the US was not affected by the 1807 law. The legal supply of imported slaves was terminated but this increased the importance of the domestic trade and the smuggling of slaves continued. [Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database - Slave Voyages](#)
- The Africans on the Clotilda were the last of an estimated **389,000** Africans delivered into bondage in mainland America from the early 1600s to 1860. [How discovery of the slave ship Clotilda informs U.S. history, PBS, 05\\_2019](#)
- Located in Alabama, Africatown was founded by the descendants of these Africans. It was a self-sustaining community. [Africatown, National Geographic, 05\\_2019.](#)
- Cudjo Lewis was the last survivor of the Clotilde, and a resident of Africatown. Cudjo was the last person alive to have been brought to America from Africa as a slave and his story was documented in film. The pioneering American author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston wrote and published articles about Cudjo's story and took pictures and videos of him. [Zora Neale Hurston Fieldwork 1928 \(RARE FOOTAGE\)](#)

2. Across from Erin Grambush's room:

**Black History: 9 Important Black scholars today.**

- **Dr. Louis Chude-Sokei**, with a PhD in English from UCLA, he is the **Editor-in-Chief for The Black Scholar**. He is currently Professor Of English, George And Joyce Wein Chair in African American Studies, and Director of the African American Studies Program. A former professor at the University of Washington, he has taught at Bowdoin College in Maine, UC Santa Cruz and has worked with the San Francisco Museum of the African Diaspora as well as other cultural institutions.

- **Dr. Achille Mbembe, arguably the most important thinker alive today.** Mbembe's work is very much influenced by Franz Fanon. Mbembe's "**necropolitics**" is a critique that lies between the intersection of both Agamben and Foucault.
- **Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw**, legal scholar and activist known for "**intersectionality**" theory.
- **Kodwo Eshun**, theorist, filmmaker, **professor at Goldsmiths, the University of London.** In 2019, Goldsmiths launched a MA in Black British History: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/news/ma-black-british-history/>
- **Dr. Cornel West**, prominent public intellectual, Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard University and holds the title of Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. Dr. West has starred in over 25 films and documentaries including, *Examined Life*, [Examined Life - Cornel West](#): where he compares philosophy to jazz and blues reminding us how invigorating a life of the mind can be.
- **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**, an American literary critic, teacher, historian, filmmaker and public intellectual who serves as the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. Editor-In-Chief of The Root.

3. Chris Ellinger's room:

**Black History: 5 Important Black Figures in European History.**

- "Black Mozart"
- Toussaint L'Ouverture

Head downstairs.....

4. Stairwell with Malcolm X quote:

**Black History: Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam.**

Read the following two quotes to see if people can decipher which Black activist said it:

MLK or Malcolm X? [Malcolm X is still misunderstood - and misused, Suleiman, 02/2020](#)

- "Ignorance of each other is what has made unity impossible in the past. Therefore, we need enlightenment. We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding, understanding creates love, love creates patience, and patience creates unity. Once we

have more knowledge (light) about each other, we will stop condemning each other and a United front will be brought about."

- "The majority of white Americans consider themselves sincerely committed to justice for the Negro. They believe that American society is essentially hospitable to fair play and to steady growth toward a middle-class Utopia embodying racial harmony. But unfortunately this is a fantasy of self-deception and comfortable vanity."

5. Bulletin Board across from Jonathan Tong's room:

**Black History: GZA from Wu-Tang Clan at MIT.**

- GZA is a founding member of the seminal hip hop group, the Wu-Tang Clan, and co-founder of SCIENCE GENIUS with [Dr. Christopher Emdin](#) of Teachers College, Columbia University. The program seeks to engage high school students in science using hip hop. The pilot program met with great success in terms of recognition and results: participating schools saw an increase in regents exams scores and 15-25% in attendance. When asked who was his favorite Wu Tang member, Mayor Elect of New York City, Bill De Blasio, said "*GZA. Not only is he a great lyricist, but I also admire his work to engage African American and Latino students in the sciences.*" [The genius of science: GZA & Science Genius at TEDxTeen 2014](#)
- GZA's upcoming album 'Dark Matter' is based on his study of physics and is a collaboration with NASA. [GZA Tells The Story Of The Universe's Creation In New NASA Collaboration "The Spark"](#)

6. Bulletin Board across from Burbank/Welman's room:

**Black History: 10 Black Scientists.**

- Katherine Johnson was a celebrated NASA mathematician who has been portrayed in the 2016 film 'Hidden Figures' - her birthday, August 26th, is recognized by West Virginia Legislature as 'Katherine Johnson Day.' [Smithsonian Curators Remember Katherine Johnson, NASA Mathematician Highlighted in 'Hidden Figures,' Died at 101](#)
- George Washington Carver was born into slavery but became a leading researcher and inventor. Booker T. Washington invited him to come work at Tuskegee Institute, a private Historically Black University in Alabama.

7. Bulletin Board outside of Ms. Nelson's room:

**Black History: 10 Black Psychologists.**

- Kenneth Bancroft Clark - his work was essential in Brown v. Board of Education. In the famous "Doll Study" he studied the responses of more than 200 Black children who were given a choice of white or brown dolls. His findings illustrated that children showed preference for white dolls from as early as three years old. Thus, he concluded segregation was psychologically damaging which played a role in the Supreme Court decision in outlawing segregation.

8. Poster behind glass near lunch area:

**Black History: Black Athletes in the Olympics.**

- 1968 Black Power Salute at Olympics
- Jesse Owens: **Jesse Owens** was an American athlete. He is best remembered for his performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where he won gold medals in the long jump, the 100- and 200-metre dashes, and the 4 x 100-metre relay. He was the first American track and field athlete to win four gold medals at a single Olympic Games.

9. Behind glass near the lunch area:

**Black History: 8 Black Artists.**

- Jean-Michel Basquiat, jazz musician and artist 1980s NYC art scene [Jean-Michel Basquiat: Post-Punk Prodigy](#)

10. Bulletin Board next to ASB office:

**Black History: Black Panther and Afrofuturism.**

11. Bulletin Board near Career Center:

**Black History: 10 Black Female Social Workers.**

- Historical and local present-day Black female social workers.

12. Bulletin Board in Dino's room 103:

**Black History: 6 Black Mathematicians.**

- Origins of mathematics in ancient African civilizations.
- 6 important mathematicians.

13. Bulletin Board across from Mrs. Riley's room:

**Black History: 10 African American Supreme Court Cases.**

- Litigation is a distinct method of social protest. These ten court cases have been highlighted to provide insight into how the Civil Rights movement came about.
- Dred Scott was an enslaved African American who had served several masters and lived in free territory. Scott sued for his freedom and lost.
- Plessy - separate but equal.
- Brown vs. Board of Ed. - overturned Plessy, separate but equal is inherently unequal.

14. Bulletin Board across from Mr. White's room:

**Black History: 10 Black Authors.**

15. Main Office:

**Black History: Origins of Jazz.**

- Jazz was created by the Black people of New Orleans. Some say that Jazz was born in Congo Square, an open space where slaves and free blacks gathered throughout the 19th century for meetings, open markets, and the African dance and drumming celebrations that played a substantial role in the development of jazz.

16. Bulletin Board in Attendance:

**Black History: Claudia Jones.**

- Born in Trinidad, she lived in the US and UK
- Mother of the beloved Notting Hill Carnival, the largest Afro-Caribbean festival in the world.

17. Bulletin Board outside of room 219:

**Black History: Honoring Black Educators in the Seattle and Greater Seattle area.**